and abundances of life than your own does, then educate them,—prepare them for the battle of life by superior information. If they are to rise higher they must be superior, they must have superior information or superior skill. Look not to others: your success under God's blessing is in your own hands. May you have the heart to determine, the head to design, the skill to execute.

RECOVERY OF ARCHITECTS' CHARGES.

MOFFATT v. DICKSON.

THE plaintiff in this case, tried in Court of Common Pleas, was an architect: the defendant is clerk to the visiting committee of the Lunatic Asylum for the county of Northumberland; and the action was brought to recover 437*l.* 10s. for preparing drawings, &c. for the new Lunatic Asylum for the county of Northumberland.

In 1848, the erection of this lunatic asylum was contemplated, and the plaintiff was engaged to prepare the "requisite probationary drawings." He accordingly sent in his plans, and attended before Sir Charles Monk and the other committeemen, to explain them. The committee considered the matter, and thought the plans likely to promise well for the uses intended; but they disapproved of the elevation, both for its appearance and for the probable cost of its erection, and requested him to prepare amended plans. About this time the Lunacy Commissioners made some alterations in their regulations, and the plaintiff had to send in a fresh set of plans altogether; but these were rejected without any specific ground of complaint being made. An extra claim made by the plaintiff was for twenty guineas, for two journeys down to the north, and the defendant paid 100*l.* into court, upon the count for work and labour.

At the conclusion of the plaintiff's case, several questions of law were raised, which his lordship reserved for the opinion of the Court, and left it to the jury to say what was the amount of the plaintiff's damage, without reference to the money paid into court.

The jury found a verdict for the plaintiff for 437*l.* 10s. without interest or money for the journeys.

AN EXPERIENCE OF PIPE DRAINS.

ABOUT five years ago I had a house in town drained with 4-inch pipe drains. The fall was very good. My tenant constantly complained of the drain acting badly, and I had much trouble in getting it cleared. At last, I determined to have it thoroughly examined; and it was then found that there was a most imperfect junction of two of the pipes, their ends not meeting, and one being much below the other. The junction was made good, and the drain works well. The fault here was not in the pipes, but in the pipe-layers.

About two years ago I had a house in the country drained with 4-inch drain pipes, and I induced a neighbour to do the same. Each house has offices, stables, coach-house, and yards. The whole internal and external drainage of each house is carried off by its own one 4-inch pipe drain, and the two drains unite and discharge the united sewage through one 4-inch pipe drain into a manure tank in a meadow. There is a very good fall, and the drains answer perfectly. The pipe-layer was a clever man, and did his work carefully.

I have another house near town, where I have had 4-inch pipe drains in use for various periods, from three years to one. Having occasion lately to have the ground opened near one of them, I examined the state of the pipes. It was most satisfactorily clear. There has not been anything like a stoppage, except in one; and that was owing to either an accidental or a mischievous damage to it. The fall is very slight, but the pipe-layers were careful.

I understand that there is an instructive system of small pipe drainage at St. Mark's College.

My experience and observation lead me to believe that where the work is done well, and the fall is reasonable (not less than 1 inch in 10 feet), and there is a due supply of water through the whole length of the drain (which can generally be got from a water-closet or a stack pipe), a 4-inch pipe drain is amply sufficient for an ordinary house. N. R.

PIPE-DRAINAGE, RICHMOND.

I UNDERSTAND that during the recent heavy rains, the pipe sewer in the Queen's-road, Richmond, was blown up, owing, it has been supposed, to some portion of the surface drainage of Richmond-park, with the washings of the neighbouring roads, having been turned into it, contrary to the original plan. Fortunately the accident was discovered in time, though not before a considerable quantity of earth had been washed away, or else some serious casualty might have occurred, for the sewer is here situated in the centre of the road, at a depth of about 10 feet below the surface. This seems to corroborate the correctness of the views taken by many of the speakers at the Institution of Civil Engineers, when discussing the subject of sewerage, who opposed very strongly the thick and thin support given by some parties to the as yet comparatively untried pottery pipes; and bears out the opinion of Mr. G. Donaldson, the author of the paper on the drainage of Richmond, which gave rise to the discussion in question, that if pipe sewerage was to succeed at all, it must be by the entire separation of the house and surface drainage. Should such an accident occur in the High street, the result would be most disastrous, as the sewer is there laid through a running sand, which it would be difficult to stop when once in motion, before great injury was done to the foundations of the adjacent houses. A. B. C.

SUBURBAN ARTISAN SCHOOLS.

ON Tuesday last, the president and committee of these schools received their friends and supporters at a *soirée* in the Library and Flaxman Hall, of University College, London. An interesting collection of works of art, consisting of paintings and drawings, bronzes, gold and silver work, pottery, bookbinding, wood-carving, &c. &c. contributed by Messrs. Hunt and Roskill, Elkington and Co. Cave Thomas, Day, Leighton, Rogers, Minton, Claudet, Fenton, Armytage, Jackson and Graham, Thorneycroft, Marochetti, &c. &c. was displayed in the fine library of the college, and gave ample sources of amusement and pleasure to a numerous company. In the course of the evening the hon. secretary read a short statement of the rise and progress of the schools from the spring of 1849 to the present time, including the formal report for the past year, and the president explained that the committee were desirous to receive contributions of books towards the school library, and of money to the general fund, as from the nature of the institution it cannot be altogether self-supporting.

In one of the compartments a number of drawings executed by the students of the school were exhibited, and served to give satisfactory evidence of the progress that is being made in it. The Flaxman Hall was effectively lighted. The kindness of the college in granting the use of it on this occasion deserves acknowledgment.

ASYLUM FOR IDIOTS.—COMPETITION.

A NEW building is about to be erected for this institution, at Earlswood, near Reigate, where the board of management have purchased a farm of ninety acres, which affords, at one part of the land, a remarkably fine elevated site for building, commanding for a long distance the two lines of railway which meet in the vicinity. The establishment is to accommodate 400 inmates, of both sexes, and of all ages, from the infant upwards. The classification must consequently provide separate departments for nursery children, school children, and adults, besides infirmary, superintendent's residence, and accommodation for other officers and attendants, and for the domestic department.

Eight designs having been submitted to the Board in competition, the decision has resulted in favour of the one presented by Mr. Robert Kerr and Mr. George Morgan. This design is Italian in character: the wall material is the stone of the locality, of which there have lately been opened new quarries, said to be of the ancient quality (the modern quality being very inferior); and the estimated cost, exclusive of certain matters set forth, stands at 21,200*l.*

The proportion of idiots in our population is much larger than is generally supposed; and yet it is remarkable that with *lunatic* asylums all over the country, it is only within the last few years that the public mind has been aroused to perceive the want of *idiot* asylums. Of late, however, the charity now in question has sprung up and grown into position, under the management of Dr. Andrew Reed, whose name is known to the English public in connection with more than one of the noble list of our benevolent institutions.

We are glad to hear of Mr. Kerr's success, and have no doubt he will, in conjunction with his partner, produce a building creditable to himself and satisfactory to his employers.

Amongst the competitors were Messrs. Moffatt, Daukes, Ashpitel and Co. &c.

THE VALUE OF THE NEW HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT TO ART.

IF we are ever to arrive at that degree of excellence in the higher branches of the fine arts to which other nations, in less auspicious times, and under circumstances less favourable than those in which we are placed, have attained, it can only be by conforming to the spirit by which they were animated, and aspiring to the fame which they achieved.

To what purpose do we compass sea and land, and expend vast sums for the precious relics of ancient art, and the transcendent conceptions of lost genius, if no kindred emotions are to stir our own souls, and no adequate resources are afforded to quicken and sustain our emulation. Regarded in this light, whatever judgment may hereafter be passed upon the architectural style and character of the new Houses of Parliament, it can never be denied that the public spirit and costly liberality displayed in the construction and decoration of these buildings is in all respects worthy of the genius and generosity of a great and enlightened nation.

Stimulated and encouraged by the examples here presented, future architects and artists may, and probably will, attain to greater magnificence in conception and grandeur of effect, to more skill in arrangement, or dexterity in execution; but, nevertheless, these splendid structures must ever remain a munificent monument of the ardent and intelligent aspirations of the people of our own times.

It should likewise be noticed that these works constitute a new era in the history of art in this country. In regard to cost they are essentially the work of the people themselves; approved and sanctioned by the most rigidly economical of their representatives; and while they unmistakeably evince the social progress of the nation in intelligence and taste, they form, at the same time, a worthy tribute to their loyalty and patriotism. "They are not dedicated exclusively to the benefit of any one portion of the community, but all have an interest in them, as all may aspire to a voice and a seat, and even a niche of fame, in these magnificent halls." These noble and commanding edifices have been reared by no tyrannical prince at the expense of the blood and treasure of servile vassals and serfs, and for the purposes of his own self-indulgence and personal aggrandizement; but they are the deliberate and self-chosen work of a free people for the intelligent gratification of a refined taste, in the exercise of their highest constitutional and legislative functions. If all our national edifices had been conceived and carried out in the same enlarged and patriotic spirit, we should not now have to complain of the waste of so much of the public money upon buildings, which a parsimonious and unwise economy in the first instance have rendered altogether valueless and unsuitable, as compared with the wants and requirements of the present age.

We can have nothing good in art, and especially in architectural art, without its proportionate cost.

In a rich and prosperous country like this, and for buildings absolutely required for the

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